genuine grievances of the employees. Employees demands Grievances are also looked into at this Ministry's level in the regularly held Departmental Council meetings. In such meetings, it is always impressed on the staff side to avoid strikes and agitation to press for their demands and be concerned about the needs of patients and the community. It is also impressed that those who act against public interest, appropriate disciplinary action as per rules is taken.

External loan burden on India

136. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total external loan burden of India as on the 31st March, 1991 in terms of rupee, S.D.R. and dollar;

(b) what are the amounts that come under short term loan and long term loan and rate of interest thereon;

(c) what is the total repayment of debt service obligation of India in terms of rupees, S.D.R. and dollar in the year 1990-91;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to off set the deficit in repayment of debt service obligation, if any; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to harness the abundantly available resources of N.R.I. funds to have adjustment in balance of payment, which is adversely affecting India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total external long term debt burden on India as on 31st March, 1991 is estimated to be Rs. 99485 crores. In dollar terms it comes to US $ 51493 million and in S.D.R. terms it comes to SDR 37468 million converted at exchange rate prevalent on that date.

(b) The short term debt outstanding as on 31-3-91 is estimated to be Rs. 8810 crores. The long term external debt burden as on 31st March, 1991 is estimated to be Rs. 99485 crores. The rate of interest varies from country to country and loan to loan.

(c) Total debt service payment i.e. repayment of principal and payment of interest during 1990-91 amounts to Rs. 9614 crores. In dollar and SDR terms it comes to US $5383 million and SDR 3859 million respectively.

(d) External loans are being repaid on due dates according to terms and conditions of each loan.

(e) Many schemes/facilities to attract N.R.I. investments are in existence. The Government attaches great importance to investments by N.R.I. and has taken a number of steps to make such investments attractive.

Direct Investment with full repatriation benefits can be made by NRIs in new issues made by all companies (Non-FERA) upto 40 per cent and upto 74 per cent in specified priority industries, 3, 4 and 5 star hotels, air taxies and advanced diagnostic centres. In other areas, investment is permitted with an export commitment of at least 60 per cent and 75 per cent for areas reserved for small scale. Investment upto 100 per cent can be made in 100. per cent export oriented projects including 3, 4 and 5 star hotels and in the revival of sick units. Direct investment on non-repatriation basis can be freely made by NRIs except in projects related to real estate, agriculture and plantation.

Arrears of payment to Coffee growers

137. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of arrears of payment against the sale proceeds of the pool products of the Coffee growers, sold in auction, pending with the Coffee Board;

(b) what are the reasons for inordinate delay in making payments to the Coffee growers after their products have been sold in auctions; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to make quick payment to these growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No arrears as such are pending with the Coffee Board for effecting payment to Coffee growers from out of the Coffee proceeds sold in auction. However, if some balance payment is due to the growers, the Coffee Board has also arranged to pay this amount.

Setting up a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai

138. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai to cater to the needs of the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is expected to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu had sent a proposal to the Central Government for establishment of a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai. The proposal was referred to the Jaswant Singh Commission in 1983 for a report. The Commission recommended the establishment of a Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai. Specific recommendations of the Commission were sent to the State Government in 1986 for views/comments, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No specific proposal, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, has been received from the State Government. No. decision can be taken by the Central Government without specific/complete proposal from the State Government.

Steps to control population

139. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of India according to 1990-91 Census;

(b) what is the percentage of increase of population in 1991 over 1981 Census;

(c) whether Government with all its efforts to control population have achieved any tangible result in this regard; and

(d) what concrete and effective steps are under the consideration of Government to contain population explosion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI): (a) Based on the 1991 Census, the provisional population total for India is 683,329,097.

(b) The decadal growth rate of population for India during 1981-91 is 23.5 per cent.

(c) The Birth Rate which was 37.2 per thousand population in the decade 1971-81 has since come down to 30.5 per thousand population in 1989 as per latest available Sample Registration System estimates. The annual growth rate of population which has been consistently rising since 1951 and was 2.22 per cent in 1981 has now declined to 2.11 per cent in 1991.

(d) The strategy to contain population growth in the country involves improvement of quality of health services, strengthening health infrastructure, enhencing child survival rates through Universal Immunization Programme, providing power contraceptive methods, intensifying population education, enhancing community participation, adopting improved communication approaches, greater in-